



# Voucher News

Spring/ Summer 2008

**A Newsletter for San Diego County Housing Authority Rental Assistance Program Participants**

## Accessible Apartments

The National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse (NAAC) has a listing of over 70,000 accessible apartments nationwide. NAAC can be reached via e-mail at: [clearinghouse@naahq.org](mailto:clearinghouse@naahq.org) or by visiting the web page, at:

[www.forrent.com](http://www.forrent.com)

A local listing of units available to the Section 8 Program can be found on our website at:

[www.sdhcd.org](http://www.sdhcd.org) in the Renter Resources page.

## Violence Against Women Act 2005 (VAWA)



VAWA affords rights to victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking who are applicants or participants of the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

VAWA places restrictions on evictions from Section 8-assisted housing, and denial or termination of Section 8 benefits for violations of the lease or family obligations due to a household member being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) at 202-307-6026 or visit the DOJ website at:

[www.ovw.usdoj.gov/vawa.htm](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/vawa.htm)

## Free or low cost health insurance for children!

Your child may be eligible for this low-cost health insurance. For more information, contact the County's San Diego Kids Health Assurance Network (SD-KHAN) at 800-675-2229 or visit the website at [www.sdkhan.org](http://www.sdkhan.org).

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status. If you feel you have been discriminated against, contact the HUD Hot Line at (800) 669-9777.

## Things to Know

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System is now used to verify and confirm income information directly from a central data source. This system is used to confirm that income is reported and action is taken if income is unreported or underreported.
- A Housing Quality Standards inspector will be conducting your inspection. Please make sure your unit is ready and you are home at the designated time. Although the inspector is a Housing Authority staff, he/she will not be able to answer questions about your specific case.
- A new Student Rule means school financial aid may be counted as income.
- Assistance cannot be transferred more than once every twelve months.



## Common Reasons for Termination

Do you know your household responsibilities? Our Family Handbook has been updated, please review it carefully to avoid possibly being terminated. Contact your housing specialist if you would like one mailed to you.

Items that need to be reported in writing within 14 days of occurrence:

- Change in income (increase or decrease).
- Change or start of employment.
- Violent Criminal Activity.
- Adding adults to household without prior approval.
- Moving without proper notice to landlord and HCD.
- Process of Eviction.



## Social Security Online

Did you know you can apply for Social Security online? There are many features you can access through the Social Security Administration's website!

- The site has access to the information in 15 languages.
- It is vision impaired friendly. Users can zoom in for clearer view.
- Apply for benefits online.
- Obtain information on Medicare.
- Request a current award letter.
- Locate local Social Security offices.
- Report a change of address.

Website: [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

*When in doubt contact your Housing Specialist!*



## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to eligible household to meet the costs of home energy and to attain better energy self-sufficiency by making payments to energy suppliers.

For details please visit the website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/>

**Read the Important Information  
on the Reverse Side**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We need you to serve on our Boards! The Section 8 Rental Assistance and Public Housing Programs are required to have a resident advisory board comprised of program participants. Two participants must also serve two-year terms on the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners are **paid** for each meeting they attend and serve along with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. To be a Commissioner, you must first serve on the resident advisory board.



**If you are interested** in serving on the resident advisory board, have transportation, and are able to attend at least two meetings a year, please complete the information below and return in your recert packet. We hope you are willing to serve.

If you have any questions, please contact your housing representative. You will be contacted regarding this application during the next 12 months.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Housing Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your principal areas of interest in serving our community?

---



---



---



---

What employment or other experience or special knowledge do you have?

---



---



---



---

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this in your packet to your Housing Representative.**

***Note to Housing Representative – please forward to Manuel Galvan***

***Read the Important Information  
on the Reverse Side***